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(ORIGINAL VIA MAIL)**FAX RECEIVED**

DEC 09 2005

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before federal courts and agencies,
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December 9, 2005

COPYMr. Akira Hirakawa
SHUWA CHIZAI INC.
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Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0004
Japan**OFFICE ACTION: RESPONSE DUE DATE JANUARY 7, 2005**Re: U.S. Patent Application
Serial No.: 09/785,207
For: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DEVICE UTILIZING COMPONENT,
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT METHOD AND MEDIUM
Inventor(s): Kunihiro IIZUKA
Your Reference: OP1130-US
Our Docket: 1046.1240

Dear Mr. Hirakawa:

Thank you for your letter of December 9, 2005. Set forth below is our report with detailed comments concerning the Office Action mailed October 7, 2005, having a due date of January 7, 2006.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay in providing our report and we will absorb the first month extension of time fee, if needed, to provide you adequate time to review our detailed comments.

Enclosed is a Proposed Claim Amendment showing our recommended changes to the claims of the application, which shows added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough.**I. Current Office Action:**

In response to the outstanding Office Action, we propose the following arguments:

A. Objection to the Specification:

At item 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the present application. We recommend amending the Abstract as shown in the enclosed Proposed Amendment to the Abstract. Please advise if you agree and provide clarifying comments as needed.

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The Examiner also objected to the Specification of the present application due to informalities. Please note that we will make the necessary amendments to overcome the objection when we file the Amendment upon receipt of your instructions. If possible, please provide an electronic copy of the application as filed to facilitate the process of making the necessary changes to the Specification (we are unable to retrieve the electronic copy from the floppy disk you provided February 13, 2001).

B. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the following: U.S. Patent No. 5,555,369 (Menendez) and U.S. Patent No. 6,591,366 (Munker), U.S. Patent No. 5,860,070 (Tow) and U.S. Patent No. 6,421,653 (May).

The Examiner maintains the comparison of the Menendez palette (207) providing generic components representing graphical interface elements in with the present invention that selectively determines a usable interface that is usable with a component for developing an application program. However, based on our understanding, Menendez requires a user to create views on a layout window by selecting a component from the palette (207) or by selecting from a proto layout window defining components (see, col. 2, lines 32-45 and col. 9, lines 44-52). That is, Menendez requires that a user select components from the palette of components or use a generic layout relating to all available components of the system.

It is also our understanding that Munker is limited to initiating a loading of information of hardware components only if a user has authorization to initiate the loading (see, col. 5, lines 46-51). Tow is directed to locking keys of a database to prevent insertion of rows/columns into the database (see, FIG. 3 and corresponding text).

The Examiner also relies on May as teaching a class group modification interface that determines unassigned (invalid) and assigned (valid) groups of valid entities (users) and usable records. However, based on our understanding, May is limited to displaying information of all legal entities that have access to the system such that a user customizes the user's class groups by selecting from the displayed information encompassing the entities (see, FIGS. 8A and 8B and corresponding text).

The present invention, based on our understanding, automatically sets or prescribes a usable interface when a user selects a component (i.e., without requiring the user to have knowledge of useable interfaces of each of the components). For example, selection of component A causes useable interfaces Y and Z to be automatically displayed, while selection of component B causes useable interface X to be automatically displayed. Thus, we recommend pointing out to the Examiner that none of the cited references teach or suggest automatically setting or prescribing useable interfaces, and recommend amending independent claims 1, 4 and 7-13 as shown in the enclosed Proposed Claim Amendment to emphasize the same.

Alternatively, we can amend each of the independent claims to recite that the present invention provides layout information "without requiring" knowledge of useable layouts of various components based on the amendments to independent 13 shown in the enclosed Proposed Claim Amendments.

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Please advise whether you would like us to: (1) amend claims 1, 4 and 7-13 as shown in the enclosed Proposed Claim Amendments, or (2) amend claims 1, 4 and 7-12 based on the amendments to claim 13.

III. Conclusion

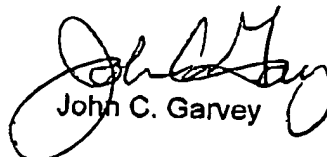
Please note that the outstanding Office Action has been made final and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) may be required to have the amendments entered and considered. If you agree with our Proposed Claim Amendments, it is likely that the Examiner will not enter the amendments due to the finality of the outstanding Office Action.

In the event an RCE is needed, we recommend adding new claim 14 as shown in the enclosed Proposed Claim Amendment to provide additional coverage for the present invention.

Further, because of the delay at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in processing amendments, we can file the RCE along with the response to the outstanding Final Office Action to avoid further fees for extension of time. Accordingly, please advise if you would like us to file the RCE along with the response to the outstanding Final Office Action or file the response upon receipt of your instructions and wait to see if the Examiner enters the amendments.

We look forward to your instructions for responding to the outstanding Office Action by the due date of January 7, 2006.

Very truly yours,



John C. Garvey

JCG/TA:
Enclosure:

Proposed Claim Amendments
Proposed Amendment to the Abstract
Debit Memo with confirmation

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December 9, 2005

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TO : UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DEC 09 2005

ATTN: Mr. Hidemi Matsukura

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

FAX NO.: 571/273-0025

TELEPHONE:

FROM: John C. Garvey

Your Reference: OP1130-US

OUR DOCKET: 1046.1240

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COMMENTS: